MCCNY

The Reverend Pat Bumgardner
Pastor

1 February 1996

Dear Saints:

As the Chair of the Clergy Credentials and Concerns Committee/Transition Team, I have been advised by legal counsel to issue the following statement:

> "The following information is provided solely to the leadership of local churches affiliated with the U.F.M.C.C. and is not intended for further dissemination.
>
> "This is to advise you that the U.F.M.C.C. clergy credentials of Rembert (Buddy) Truluck were resigned effective 1 February 1996."

If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the C.C.C.C./Transition Team.

May God continue to bless and guide you.

Sincerely,

Pat Bumgardner

The Rev. Pat Bumgardner, Chair
Clergy Credentials and Concerns Committee/Transition Team

RPB/mws

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Marge - I need and appreciate your prayers and friendship! God is opening great new doors of ministry I never realized were there before! Hope to talk with you soon. — Love, Buddy

DR. REMBERT TRULUCK (864) 833-1751
104 Woodrow Drive, Clinton, SC 29325

February 21, 1996

My dear friend,

On February 1, 1996, I resigned my UFMCC clergy credentials and resigned as Senior Pastor of MCC Nashville. This came after 2 years and 3 months of service in Nashville. We worked to build and develop a Christ centered, inclusive, evangelistic and growing congregation. We reached out to heal wounded and abused people in the lesbigay community of middle Tennessee. Please continue to pray for MCC Nashville!

At present, I am living with and taking care of my parents, ages 84 and 85, in Clinton, SC. Mother just had eye surgery and is totally blind until the surgery heals. Daddy has been suffering from senile dementia (the doctor's term) for about 3 years and is unable to take care of himself or be left alone. Until Mother's eye surgery, she took care of Daddy by herself in their home of almost 50 years. This can no longer happen. My sister, Jackque, is here from her home in Oakland, CA, this week but will have to leave next week.

My sister and I need your prayers and love as we seek God's help and practical solutions to the many problems we face in this situation.

My ministry continues through my writing to finish a fresh manuscript for "LIVING IN FREEDOM," which will contain 30 chapters of study material for home spiritual support groups. The book will explain how and why to develop home study and spiritual support groups for lesbigay people and others abused and oppressed by religion. The book will contain all of the material in "INVITATION TO FREEDOM" plus sections on STEPS TO RECOVERY FROM BIBLE ABUSE, ESCAPE FROM BIGOTRY, FREEDOM FROM FEAR, and GROWTH TO MATURITY IN CHRIST.

This new manuscript will draw on and reflect what I have learned and experienced in Nashville trying to understand and respond to wounded and suffering gay, lesbian and bisexual people in the most devastating homophobic fundamentalist environment that I have encountered anywhere. Please pray for me to do God's will in this renewal of my writing and teaching ministry.

I will work with Adam DeBaugh at CHI RHO PRESS to print and distribute the Book, and I plan to use the computer INTERNET to make what I have learned more widely available to all people abused and oppressed by religion.

Adam needs money ($7,000 or more) to publish and promote "LIVING IN FREEDOM" and other books and materials related to this project. I need money to get on the INTERNET. Over a billion people will be on the INTERNET within 4 years! Please pray for us both. You can contact Adam at Chi Rho Press, PO Box 7864, Gaithersburg, MD 20898 or (301) 670-1859.

I will be very interested in what you think of this new direction in my ministry and will welcome any suggestions, advice, and resources that you have to offer.

In Nashville, I learned a lot about the destructive power of sick religion and a lot about the healing power of Jesus. In a Bible Study and Spiritual Support Group that I led in my home every Wednesday evening for over 2 years, I watched wounded and suffering people learn, grow, heal and begin the long road to recovery. Most of them also became healers and teachers themselves.

The group usually averaged between 20 and 30 people. In this group, many people learned to love and accept themselves and each other. They developed skills and motivation in sharing Christ with others and in "standing alongside" others in non-judgmental and supportive giving of themselves. This spiritual support group continues at MCC Nashville and is being expanded to more meeting places.

Small group meetings is how the early Christians began to follow Jesus in ministry, for this also was the basic pattern of Jesus. Many gay, lesbian and other people already are seeking help in small person-centered recovery and support groups. All that has been missing is relevant, Christ centered, accurate, interesting and inspiring material to use in the groups. My calling is to provide this material NOW!

My present place of isolation and work is a lonely wilderness. I would like to hear from you. Every person who has ever touched my life is part of what I am doing now. I thank you and thank God for what you have meant to me and taught me.

In the love and freedom we share in Jesus Christ,

Buddy

Rembert S. Truluck